

Abstract

The present invention relates to the discovery of novel genes encoded by the interleukin-1 locus. The *IL-1L1* gene is located in the interval between the IL-1Beta and the IL-1 receptor antagonist encoding genes and encodes a polypeptide which is homologous to both IL-1 agonist and IL-1 antagonist proteins. Therapeutics, diagnostics and screening assays based on these molecules are also disclosed.

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